

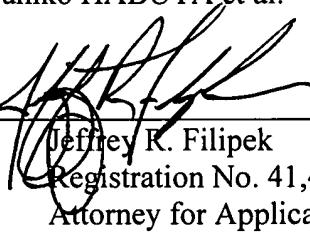
REMARKS

Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein and new claims 16-31 have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Haruhiko HABUTA et al.

By 

Jeffrey K. Filipek
Registration No. 41,471
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 18, 2006